

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

~~An apparatus and method for digital video encoding is disclosed. The disclosed system provides for an improved~~systems and methods provide a way of correcting divergence of a reference block in a decoder while minimizing the overhead required to update the reference block. By sending a map placing a small subset of macroblocks in one slice group and the remainder of the macroblocks in one or more other slice groups, one can isolate the refresh blocks from blocks that exploit image redundancies. Further, by sending a different map for each transmitted frame, each map corresponding with the macroblocks to be Intra refreshed in that frame, the effect of gradually refreshing all parts of the image can be achieved. Finally, by assigning a different frame index to each transmitted map, the map description only needs to be sent once at the start of the communication. All subsequent frames that use the same pattern of refresh blocks can reference the previously transmitted map index.